

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

28 June 2023

William Fernandes

Reference: ODNI Case DF-2023-00203

Mr. Fernandes,

This responds to your request dated 30 May 2023, received in the Information Management Office of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on 31 May 2023 (Enclosure 1). Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, you requesting "*a copy of the 2021, 2022 Mandatory Declassification Review Requests received by the DNI.*"

Your request was processed in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. A thorough search of our databases located 13 documents responsive to your request (Enclosures 2-14). Upon review, we have determined that portions of the documents should be withheld in part pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions:

- (b)(3), which applies to information exempt from disclosure by statute, specifically:
  - the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, 50 U.S.C. § 3024(m)(1), which protects, among other things, the names and identifying information of ODNI personnel, and
- (b)(6), which, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy.

Note, the foreseeable harm standard was applied in the course of the review process and the information withheld was determined to meet that standard.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may administratively appeal by submitting a written request to the Chief FOIA Officer, c/o Chief, Information Management Office, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Washington, DC 20511 or [dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov). The request letter and envelope or subject line of the email should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of this letter.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration is also available for mediation services. OGIS can be reached at 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, MD 20740-6001; telephone (202) 741-5770 or Toll-free (877) 684-6448; fax (202) 741-5769; or email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov).

Remaining questions can be directed to the ODNI Requester Service Center at [dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov) or (703) 275-1313. You may also contact me, the FOIA Public Liaison, at [dni-foia-liaison@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia-liaison@dni.gov) for any further assistance or to discuss any aspect of this request.

Sincerely,

  
for

Gregory Koch  
Chief, Information Management Office  
FOIA Public Liaison

Enclosures

28 JUN 2021

(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov on behalf of National FOIA Portal  
<National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 8:40 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** New FOIA request received for Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
**Attachments:** FOIA Request confirmation #230231.pdf

Hello,

A new FOIA request was submitted to your agency component:

The following list contains the entire submission submitted June 26, 2021 08:40:02am ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

## Contact information

**First name** John  
**Last name** Greenewald  
**Mailing Address** (b)(6)  
**City**  
**State/Province**  
**Postal Code**  
**Country**  
**Phone**  
**Company/Organization**  
**Email**

## Request

**Request ID** 230756  
**Confirmation ID** 230231

### Request description

To whom it may concern, This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following document(s): Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (Or other title). I am seeking the CLASSIFIED version of this report: <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/reports-publications/reports-publications-2021/item/2223-preliminary-assessment-unidentified-aerial-phenomena> .. that was given to Congress/Senate on June 25, 2021. To be clear, I am NOT asking for the public version of the report. I am seeking the classified "annex" or report or any other material that was given to Congress/Senate on (or around) June 25, 2021. It is my believe that despite the classified nature of the material, it should not be exempted 100%. I ask that the information be reviewed, and the non-exempted information released. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response!  
Sincerely, John Greenewald, Jr. (b)(6)

(b)(6)



## Supporting documentation

### Fees

Request category ID media

Fee waiver no

#### Explanation

First and foremost, in recent weeks, months and years, this very topic, UFOs, has garnered worldwide media attention and public interest. NUMEROUS stories in the mainstream media WORLDWIDE have resulted. Newspapers and online magazine from around the globe have covered this story, and I feel the responsive records in this case, would go to offer the public a great understanding of something that is not only public interest, but something of great value to the public understanding. I have a unique way of disseminating this information. My website The Black Vault ([www.theblackvault.com](http://www.theblackvault.com)), known worldwide for covering topics related to U.S. Government documents, records and secrets, serves approximately 24,000 people every day. I offer responsive records I get under the FOIA, for free, to those visitors. I also take those documents, when applicable, and write editorialized articles and summaries for publication elsewhere. I also have the ability, should the responsive records truly be newsworthy, to garner media attention for them. I have appeared on numerous television shows, news programs, magazine, and newspapers from around the globe.

Willing to pay 25

### Expedited processing

Expedited Processing yes

#### Explanation

First and foremost, in recent weeks, months and years, this very topic, UFOs, has garnered worldwide media attention and public interest. NUMEROUS stories in the mainstream media WORLDWIDE have resulted. Newspapers and online magazine from around the globe have covered this story, and I feel the responsive records in this case, would go to offer the public a great understanding of something that is not only public interest, but something of great value to the public understanding. I have a unique way of disseminating this information. My website The Black Vault ([www.theblackvault.com](http://www.theblackvault.com)), known worldwide for covering topics related to U.S. Government documents, records and secrets, serves approximately 24,000 people every day. I offer responsive records I get under the FOIA, for free, to those visitors. I also take those documents, when applicable, and write editorialized articles and summaries for publication elsewhere. I also have the ability, should the responsive records truly be newsworthy, to garner media attention for them. I have appeared on numerous television shows, news programs, magazine, and newspapers from around the globe.

The following table contains the entire submission, and is formatted for ease of copy/pasting into a spreadsheet.

request_id	confirmatio_n_id	address_city	address_cou_ntry	address_li_ne1	address_li_ne2	address_state_province	address_zip_postal_code
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230756	230231	(b)(6)					
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(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov on behalf of National FOIA Portal  
<National.FOIAPortal@usdoj.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 17, 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** New FOIA request received for Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
**Attachments:** FOIA Request confirmation #237036.pdf

Hello,

A new FOIA request was submitted to your agency component:

The following list contains the entire submission submitted July 17, 2021 09:30:02am ET, and is formatted for ease of viewing and printing.

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## Contact information

First name	dwight
Last name	snider
Mailing Address	(b)(6)
City	
State/Province	
Postal Code	
Country	
Phone	
Email	

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## Request

Request ID	237561
Confirmation ID	237036
Request description	im requesting a mandatory declassification request "MDR" of the classified "UAP" document. requested by congress, all images and data that can be released after review , thank you

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## Supporting documentation

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## Fees

Request category ID	scientific
Fee waiver	yes

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## Expedited processing

Expedited Processing

no

The following table contains the entire submission, and is formatted for ease of copy/pasting into a spreadsheet.

request_id	confirmation_id	address_city	address_country	address_line1	address_state_province	address_zip
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237561
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237036
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(b)(6)
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**From:** Adam Kline (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** Mandatory Review request

Dear FOIA Office,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 12958, as amended, of the following records:

A National Counterterrorism Center Red Team report: National Counterterrorism Center, REFLECTIONS, "Ja'far al-Tayyar: An Unlikely Al-Qa'ida Operational Threat," dated 22 December 2005.

This document is publicly cited in the 2014 Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program on page 359, footnote 2019; and page 366, footnote 2062: <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CRPT-113srpt288.pdf>.

Please note that this record is not exempt under the "operational files" exemption as it is a "specific subject matter of an investigation... by... The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate," which is explicitly non-exempt under 50 U.S. Code § 3146 (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/50/3146>).

The subject of this document, Ja'far al-Tayyar, also known as Adnan el Shukrijumah, was widely reported dead in December 2014: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/pakistan-says-it-killed-a-senior-al-qaeda-operative-adnan-el-shukrijumah/2014/12/06/656f3d5c-7d6f-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/pakistan-says-it-killed-a-senior-al-qaeda-operative-adnan-el-shukrijumah/2014/12/06/656f3d5c-7d6f-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc_story.html)

If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. Please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

This request is not being made for commercial purposes.

I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest, given the profound controversy over, and extraordinary public interest in, the CIA's rendition, detention, and interrogation program.

If fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer that the request be filled electronically, by email attachment if available, but I can provide a mailing address if needed.

Thank you very much for your time and help. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Adam Kline

(b)(6)

Adam Kline

(b)(6)





**From:** Emanuel McCray (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 26, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** DNI-Media; DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** Request for Declassification and Publication of Intelligence Community Assessment on COVID-19 Origins

A signed copy of this request is available for download at this link:

(b)(6)

EMANUEL MCCRAY

(b)(6)

September 26, 2021

**The Honorable Avril Haines**  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20511

**Subj:** Request for Declassification and Publication of Intelligence Community Assessment on COVID-19 Origins

**Ref:** (a) The President Executive Order 13526 (Classified National Security Information) of December 29, 2009<sup>ii[1]</sup>

Dear Director Haines:

On or about August 27, 2021, your Office issued "Summary of Assessment on COVID-19 Origins", ODNI News Release No. 30-21.<sup>iii[2]</sup>

The Unclassified version of the Assessment was responsive to President Biden's direction to the Intelligence Community to review the origins of COVID-19, and confirmed the causative biological agent originated in the People's Republic of China ("PRC").

Pursuant to reference (a), and based on my training, education, and experience in the Intelligence Community, I believe the events giving rise to COVID-19 are no longer eligible to be maintained as classified, and must be declassified, forthwith, in accordance with Section 1.7(a) of the reference, which provides that:

"In no case shall information be classified, continue to be maintained as classified, or fail to be declassified in order to:

- (1) conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;
- (2) prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency;
- (3) restrain competition; or

(4) prevent or delay the release of information that does not require protection in the interest of the national security.”

Thank you for your speedy, professional attention to this matter of public importance.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Emanuel McCray  
Intelligence Community Professional

iii[1] Available from <https://www.archives.gov/isoo/policy-documents/cnsi-eo.html>; <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2010-title3-vol1/pdf/CFR-2010-title3-vol1-eo13526.pdf>.

iv[2] ODNI Issues Summary of Assessment on COVID-19 Origins. Available from <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/press-releases-2021/item/2237-odni-issues-summary-of-assessment-on-covid-19-origins>; <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/reports-publications/reports-publications-2021/item/2236-unclassified-summary-of-assessment-on-covid-19-origins>.



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## Key Takeaways

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The IC assesses that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, probably emerged and infected humans through an initial small-scale exposure that occurred no later than November 2019 with the first known cluster of COVID-19 cases arising in Wuhan, China in December 2019. In addition, the IC was able to reach broad agreement on several other key issues. We judge the virus was not developed as a biological weapon. Most agencies also assess with low confidence that SARS-CoV-2 probably was not genetically engineered; however, two agencies believe there was not sufficient evidence to make an assessment either way. Finally, the IC assesses China's officials did not have foreknowledge of the virus before the initial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged.

After examining all available intelligence reporting and other information, though, the IC remains divided on the most likely origin of COVID-19. All agencies assess that two hypotheses are plausible: natural exposure to an infected animal and a laboratory-associated incident.

- Four IC elements and the National Intelligence Council assess with low confidence that the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection was most likely caused by natural exposure to an animal infected with it or a close progenitor virus—a virus that probably would be more than 99 percent similar to SARS-CoV-2. These analysts give weight to China's officials' lack of foreknowledge, the numerous vectors for natural exposure, and other factors.
- One IC element assesses with moderate confidence that the first human infection with SARS-CoV-2 most likely was the result of a laboratory-associated incident, probably involving experimentation, animal handling, or sampling by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. These analysts give weight to the inherently risky nature of work on coronaviruses.
- Analysts at three IC elements remain unable to coalesce around either explanation without additional information, with some analysts favoring natural origin, others a laboratory origin, and some seeing the hypotheses as equally likely.
- Variations in analytic views largely stem from differences in how agencies weigh intelligence reporting and scientific publications, and intelligence and scientific gaps.

The IC judges they will be unable to provide a more definitive explanation for the origin of COVID-19 unless new information allows them to determine the specific pathway for initial natural contact with an animal or to determine that a laboratory in Wuhan was handling SARS-CoV-2 or a close progenitor virus before COVID-19 emerged.

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- The IC—and the global scientific community—lacks clinical samples or a complete understanding of epidemiological data from the earliest COVID-19 cases. If we obtain information on the earliest cases that identified a location of interest or occupational exposure, it may alter our evaluation of hypotheses.

China's cooperation most likely would be needed to reach a conclusive assessment of the origins of COVID-19. Beijing, however, continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blame other countries, including the United States. These actions reflect, in part, China's government's own uncertainty about where an investigation could lead as well as its frustration the international community is using the issue to exert political pressure on China.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEOM-2022-00001

29 November 2021

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: 11/29/2021 9:24 PM  
To: DNI-FOIA  
Subject: MDR REQUEST

To whom it may concern,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following document(s):

Department of Justice and Office of the Director of National Intelligence,  
Semiannual Assessment of Compliance with Procedures and Guidelines Issued  
Pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,  
Submitted  
by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence, Reporting  
Period: December 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009. December 2009

A previously redacted version of this document can be found here, for  
reference: <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB436/docs/EBB-027.pdf>

If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. Please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response!

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and any handwritten notes.

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.  
CEO - The Black Vault, Inc.  
<https://www.theblackvault.com>

(b)(6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and any handwritten notes.



**From:** Adam Kline (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022 6:00 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** Mandatory Declassification Review Request  
**Attachments:** SSCI report 2004 excerpts.pdf; SSCI report 2006 excerpts.pdf

Dear FOIA Office,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 12958, as amended, of the following record:

A National Intelligence Council memorandum entitled "Iraq: Evaluation of Documents Provided by the Iraqi National Congress," NIC 1770-02, dated August 9, 2002.

This record is quoted at significant length and described in two congressional reports from 2004 and 2006. See SSCI's 2004 report on intelligence prior to the Iraq War: [https://irp.fas.org/congress/2004\\_rpt/ssci\\_iraq.pdf](https://irp.fas.org/congress/2004_rpt/ssci_iraq.pdf) (page 399 of the PDF); and SSCI's 2006 report on intelligence provided by the INC: <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=466637> (pages 38-39 of the PDF). The pages referenced are also attached below. Thus, the substance of this report and numerous verbatim quotes from it have already been publicly released by Congress.

Please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of this document. If you regard any portion of this document as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, I respectfully request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose it.

This request is not being made for commercial purposes.

I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest, given the extensive public interest in the issue of U.S. intelligence in the lead-up to the Iraq War and the role of the Iraqi National Congress and Ahmed Chalabi. For publications demonstrating this interest, see: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2004/06/07/the-manipulator>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/12/world/data-from-iraqi-exiles-under-scrutiny.html>, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/postscript-ahmad-chalabi>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/04/world/middleeast/ahmad-chalabi-iraq-dead.html>, and the official congressional reports cited above.

If fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request.

Thank you very much for your time and help - I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Adam Kline

Mailing address: (b)(6)

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Adam Kline

(b)(6)



**REPORT ON THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S  
PREWAR INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS ON IRAQ**



**Ordered Reported on July 7, 2004**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

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**108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

**PAT ROBERTS, Kansas, *Chairman***

**JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, West Virginia, *Vice Chairman***

**ORRIN G. HATCH, Utah  
MIKE DEWINE, Ohio  
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, Missouri  
TRENT LOTT, Mississippi  
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, Maine  
CHUCK HAGEL, Nebraska  
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, Georgia  
JOHN W. WARNER, Virginia**

**CARL LEVIN, Michigan  
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, California  
RON WYDEN, Oregon  
RICHARD J. DURBIN, Illinois  
EVAN BAYH, Indiana  
JOHN EDWARDS, North Carolina  
BARBARA MIKULSKI, Maryland**

**BILL FRIST, Tennessee, *Ex Officio*  
THOMAS A. DASCHLE, South Dakota, *Ex Officio***

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[REDACTED]

(U) The assessment continues with the statement that since the 1994 NIE:

(U) . . . Saddam's belief is likely to have been reinforced by advances in WMD and missile capabilities by Iran, Pakistan, India and other countries.

(U) Assessment Q – *Stability of the Iraqi Regime: Significant Vulnerabilities Offset by Repression*, (ICA 2002-02HC, April 2002).

(U) We judge that Iraqi military morale and battlefield cohesion are more fragile today than in 1991. Reporting since the 11 September attacks on the United States suggests that Saddam's regime is increasingly concerned about the military's willingness to fight.

(U) Assessment R – *Iraq: Evaluation of Documents Provided by the Iraqi National Congress*, (NIC 1770-02, 09 August 2002). The limitations of the HUMINT available to the IC were addressed again in a 2002 NIC document that evaluated a stream of HUMINT reporting from the Iraqi National Congress (INC). According to the NIC, the IC reviewed the 300 pages of documentation that the INC provided in 2002. The IC believed the INC used a variety of its own members, its clandestine agents and other contacts to prepare the materials for the U.S. However, similar to other cases in which HUMINT from various [REDACTED] sources was deficient, the INC's HUMINT was also of limited value.

(U) The written material provided to the [IC] by the [INC] contains little of current intelligence value. Overall, the order of battle information throughout the documents was generally accurate—matching existing IC holdings that are based on all-source reporting. In some significant areas that information, although correct, is out of date and no longer useful . . . . The intelligence value of almost all the data provided by the INC is diminished by our inability to assess the origin and authenticity of the documents . . . .

(U) . . . The order of battle data provided for the Republican Guard, Iraq's most important military service, is four years out of date. The data provided reflects information prior to a 1998 rotation of units. There are also several errors in the numbered brigades and the documents place several division headquarters in the wrong locations . . . . The documents mis-identify the structure and equipment holdings of key Republican Guard divisions . . . .

109<sup>th</sup> Congress  
2d Session

SENATE

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**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**  
**ON**  
**THE USE BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OF**  
**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE**  
**IRAQI NATIONAL CONGRESS**  
**together with**  
**ADDITIONAL VIEWS**

September 8, 2006 - Ordered to be printed

[REDACTED]

questions at the time about the reliability of the INC/ICP, and its utility for U.S. military operations in Iraq.<sup>104</sup> The arrest warrant was subsequently suspended.

### III. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INC

#### A. INC Documents

(U) In early 2002, while managing the ICP, the Department of State received one bundle of approximately 300 pages of mostly Arabic language materials from the INC. This material was transferred to the Intelligence Community for analysis in March 2002. The Department of State has informed the Committee that it received no other documents from the INC.<sup>105</sup>

(U) In August 2002, the National Intelligence Council (NIC) published a memorandum, *Iraq: Evaluation of Documents Provided by the Iraqi National Congress*, which offered a coordinated Intelligence Community assessment of the material's contribution to intelligence on Iraq. The Intelligence Community made summary translations of the data – in some cases verbatim translations – and analysts with Arabic language capability also reviewed the documents. The material included reports on the Iraqi military order of battle and the Special Security Organization, press clippings, meeting notes, and lists of alleged political victims of the Ba'ath party.<sup>106</sup> The following are the key points from the NIC memorandum:

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<sup>104</sup> Letter to SSCI Chairman Roberts from the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, April 25, 2006.

<sup>105</sup> Department of State responses to questions from Committee staff, April 24, 2004 and Responses to questions from Committee staff, November 25, 2005.

<sup>106</sup> *Iraq: Evaluation of Documents Provided by the Iraqi National Congress*, National Intelligence Council, August 9, 2002

[REDACTED]

The written material provided to the Intelligence Community (IC) by the Iraqi National Congress contains little of current intelligence value.

- Overall, the order of battle information throughout the documents was generally accurate – matching existing IC holdings that are based on all-source reporting. In some significant areas that information, although correct, is out of date and no longer useful.
- An extensive report on the Iraqi Special Security Organization contained numerous errors.
- Some of the documents include long lists of names and titles, but few have addresses or phone numbers that would increase their value.

The intelligence value of almost all the data provided by the INC is diminished by our inability to assess the origin and authenticity of the documents. None of the documents, except press clippings, has sourcing or attribution that can be verified or traced.

- The numerous press clippings included are openly available through the Internet or the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.<sup>107</sup>

(U) The DIA received documents from INC-affiliated sources before and during its official management of the ICP. In each case documents were disseminated as reporting from sources or as attachments to the source

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<sup>107</sup> *Iraq: Evaluation of Documents Provided by the Iraqi National Congress*, National Intelligence Council, August 9, 2002.



(b)(3) (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** MDR REQUEST

To whom it may concern,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following document(s):

Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Report Case Number 2013-0034, dated September 10, 2014. For reference, a copy of a previously released version (more than two years ago) is at:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3870924-Leopold-ICIG-report-ODNI-employee-Snowden.html>

If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. Please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response!

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

(b)(6)

**Mailing Address:**

(b)(6)

15 JAN 2021

(b)(3), (b)(6)

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**From:** Sainath Suryanarayanan (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Cc:** (b)(3)  
**Subject:** Mandatory Declassification Review Request  
**Attachments:** ODNI FOI 8.12.20.pdf; ODNI Denial 12.29.20.pdf; ODNI\_MDR\_request 1.8.21.pdf

Please see the attached Mandatory Declassification Review request, along with two other attachments.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you,  
Sainath

Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
Staff Scientist, U.S. Right to Know  
[usrtk.org/about/](https://usrtk.org/about/)



January 8, 2021

Gregory Koch  
Director, Information Management Division  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)  
Washington, DC 20511

**RE: Mandatory Declassification Review request for three documents**

Dear Mr. Koch:

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 12958, as amended. On August 12, 2020, U.S. Right to Know filed a FOIA request to the ODNI (ODNI Case # DF-2020-00325). We sought finished intelligence produced since January 2015 about the accidental or deliberate release of biological agents, containment failures in biosafety-level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities, and other incidents of concern related to dual-use biosafety research in BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities in Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, former countries of the Soviet Union, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Thailand.

On December 29, 2020, the ODNI responded that it had located three documents responsive to our request, and determined that the three documents must be withheld in their entirety pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1)-- under Executive Order 13526, section 1.4(c)-- and (b)(3), under the National Security Act of 1947, Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i)(1); Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended; and Section 102A(i)(I) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. ODNI did not describe or characterize the nature of the documents, or their contents, other than that they were responsive to our FOIA request.

We hereby request that the three documents located by the ODNI in response to U.S. Right to Know's FOIA request (ODNI Case # DF-2020-00325) be reviewed under the terms of Executive Order 12958. If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, U.S. Right to Know requests that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. We request that you release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of the three documents.

During the last year, the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has been responsible for 1.8 million deaths. More are sure to follow. According to news reports, the U.S. deputy national security advisor, Matthew Pottinger, has [stated that](#) there is "a growing body of evidence that the [Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab is likely the most credible source of the [SARS-CoV-2] virus."

U.S. citizens have a right to know what data exists about accidents, leaks and other mishaps at laboratories where pathogens of pandemic potential are being stored and modified, and especially whether any such leaks are implicated in the origins of Covid-19, and the deaths of more than

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350,000 Americans. We urge you to release what information you have about these questions, both to U.S. citizens and concerned people and families across the world.

As a public interest, public health group, we have no commercial interest in the records that are the subject of this MDR request and would receive no financial benefit from their disclosure.

You can email Sainath Suryanarayanan at (b)(6) to discuss any aspect of this MDR.

If you prefer to call, please call (b)(6), who can be reached at (415) 944-7350.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
Staff Scientist

(b)(6)

Executive Director

Attachments:

1. Original FOI request letter
2. ODNI Letter of Denial



UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
U.S. Right To Know  
4096 Piedmont Ave #963  
Oakland, CA 94611-5221

December 29, 2020

Reference: ODNI Case DF-2020-00325

Mr./Ms. Suryanarayanan,

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 12 August 2020 and received by the Information Management Office (IMO) on 12 August 2020, in which you seek, *"finished intelligence produced since January 2015, which addresses biosafety research with potential dual-use applications in Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, former countries of the Soviet Union, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Thailand. We are particularly interested in finished intelligence about the accidental or deliberate release of biological agents, containment failures in biosafety-level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities, and other incidents of concern related to dual-use biosafety research in BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities in these countries."*

Your request was processed in accordance with FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and three documents responsive to your request were located. Upon review, we have determined that the three documents must be withheld in their entirety pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions:

- (b)(1), which applies to information that is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 13526, Section 1.4 (c).
- (b)(3), which applies to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statute is the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1), which protects information pertaining to intelligence sources and methods; Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended; and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

If you wish to appeal our determination on this request, please explain the basis of your appeal and forward to: Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Information Management Office, Washington, DC 20511, within 90 days of the date of this letter.

However, you may find it helpful to contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

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If you have any questions, feel free to email our Requester Service Center at [DNI-FOIA@dni.gov](mailto:DNI-FOIA@dni.gov) or call us at (301) 243-1499. You can also contact ODNI's FOIA Liaison by email at [DNI-FOIA-Liaison@dni.gov](mailto:DNI-FOIA-Liaison@dni.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sally A. Nicholson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sally" being more prominent.

Sally A. Nicholson  
Chief, Information Review &  
Release Group  
FOIA Public Liaison  
Information Management Office

UNCLASSIFIED



August 12, 2020

Patricia Gaviria  
Director, Information Management Division  
ATTN: FOIA/PA  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20511

VIA E-mail: [dni-foia@dni.gov](mailto:dni-foia@dni.gov)

**RE: Freedom of Information Act request**

Dear Mr. Gaviria:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, *et seq.*, to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence ("ODNI"). We are seeking finished intelligence produced since January 2015, which addresses biosafety research with potential dual-use applications in Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, former countries of the Soviet Union, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Thailand. We are particularly interested in finished intelligence about the accidental or deliberate release of biological agents, containment failures in biosafety-level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities, and other incidents of concern related to dual-use biosafety research in BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities in these countries.

We request that you disclose the above documents and materials as they become available, without waiting until all the documents have been compiled.

If documents are denied in whole or in part, please specify which exemption(s) is (are) claimed for each passage or whole document denied. Give the number of pages in each document and the total number of pages pertaining to this request and the dates of documents withheld. We request that excised material be "blacked out" rather than "whited out" or cut out and that the remaining non-exempt portions of documents be released as provided under the Freedom of Information Act. Please send a memo (with a copy or copies to me) to the appropriate unit(s) in your office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed.

U.S. Right to Know is requesting a waiver of or, at a minimum, a reduction in fees related to this request. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organization based in Oakland, California. As a public interest organization, we have no commercial interest in the records that are the subject of this FOIA request and would derive no financial benefit from their disclosure. Our research has been featured many times in newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *The Guardian*, as well as in medical and public health journals such as the *BMJ*. As with our prior work, we intend to disseminate newsworthy information to the general public by way of academic or media articles, or fact sheets, relying upon any records released in response to this FOIA request. These records, which are not publicly available at present, may shed light on foreign biosafety research networks. Such disclosure is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute to the public's understanding of dual use research of concern on dangerous pathogens in China and elsewhere. Further, documentation of such influence is important, and is in the

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public interest because it concerns how taxpayer resources are allocated, whether or not they are being wasted or squandered, and whether the public interest is being served.

We ask, if fees are assessed, that they not exceed \$25 without first contacting our office for authorization.

Please send the documents electronically in PDF format to Sainath Suryanarayanan at [sainath@usrtk.org](mailto:sainath@usrtk.org).

Please call, rather than write (b)(6) if there are any questions or if you need additional information. He can be reached at (415) 944-7350.

Thank you for your help in filling this FOIA request.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD  
Staff Scientist

(b)(6)

Executive Director



3 MAR 2021

(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** Jason Leopold (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:39 PM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** Request for Mandatory Declassification Review

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following:

A copy of the five-page document prepared by ODNI assessing the potential damage could/would result from the public release of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's December 2014 study (executive summary) of the CIA's detention and interrogation program.

The existence of this five-page document was described in a news report published on September 10, 2016 by The Guardian. Additionally, former ODNI spokesman Timothy Barrett is quoted in the news report characterizing the document and commenting about it. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/10/cia-senate-investigation-constitutional-crisis-daniel-jones>

I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly senior investigative reporter and on-air correspondent for VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America.

Kind regards,  
Jason Leopold

--

**BuzzFeed News**

Jason Leopold | BuzzFeed News | Senior Investigative Reporter

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Signal: (b)(6)

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(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** Jason Leopold (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** Request for Mandatory Declassification Review

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following:

1. A copy of the intelligence community assessment prepared for House and Senate Intelligence Committees on the use of political assassinations as a form of statecraft by the Russian Federation since January 1, 2000 as mandated by the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.
2. Any and all communications exchanged between ODNI's Office of Legislative Affairs, the Office of General Counsel, National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC), National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), National Counterintelligence & Security Center (NCSC) Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center (CTIIC), National Intelligence Council (NIC), National Intelligence Management Council (NIMC), and the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House and Senate Intelligence Committee and the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, as well as any individual members of those committees and/or their staff, mentioning or referring to the assessment.

#### BACKGROUND

Section 503 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 that was signed into law by President Barack Obama states:

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an intelligence

community assessment on the use of political assassinations as a form of

statecraft by the Russian Federation since January 1, 2000.

(b) Content.--The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include--

- (1) a list of Russian politicians, businessmen, dissidents, journalists, current or former government officials, foreign heads-of-state, foreign political leaders, foreign journalists, members of nongovernmental organizations, and other relevant



individuals that the intelligence community assesses were assassinated by Russian Security Services, or agents of such services, since January 1, 2000; and

(2) for each individual described in paragraph (1), the country in which the assassination took place, the means used, associated individuals and organizations, and other background information related to the assassination of the individual.

(c) Appropriate Congressional Committees Defined.--In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the following:

- (1) The congressional intelligence committees.
- (2) The Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- (3) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

I am the senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and formerly senior investigative reporter and on-air correspondent for VICE News. Additionally, my reporting has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Salon, CBS Marketwatch, The Los Angeles Times, The Nation, Truthout, Al Jazeera English and Al Jazeera America.

Kind regards,  
Jason Leopold

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**BuzzFeed News**

Jason Leopold | BuzzFeed News | Senior Investigative Reporter |

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Signal: (b)(6)

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(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** enzo colella (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:24 PM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** FOIA request,

Dear FOIA Coordinator, I request the following record:

A review of a report by Amnesty International titled, 'Will I be next? US drone strikes in Pakistan', published in October 2013.

Addressing Glomar:

Then-WH Press Sec. Jay Carney, when asked by a reporter about the publication replied,  
"Let me start with the beginning of your question, to say that we are reviewing these reports carefully."  
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2013/10/22/press-briefing-press-secretary-10222013>

Further, on the matter of where the report covers, Pakistan:

Then-President Obama confirmed that the US does carry out RPA strikes in FATA, Pakistan.  
In a 31 Jan, 2012 google hangout, the President said, "Obviously a lot of these strikes have been in the FATA going after Al-Qaeda suspects..." at 29:11–29:14  
<https://youtu.be/eeTj5qMGTAI?t=1738>

This very statement, though the mention of FATA was omitted, was quoted in the decision of 15 March 2013 by the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia Circuit. The Timestamp in the ruling is found on page 9, footnote 5: 26:20–30:18. The statement falls within this timestamp.

[https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/6471FF102FC611A685257B2F004DEA2A/\\$file/11-5320-1425559.pdf](https://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/opinions.nsf/6471FF102FC611A685257B2F004DEA2A/$file/11-5320-1425559.pdf)

Thank you



(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** MDR REQUEST

To whom it may concern,

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 13526, of the following document(s):

The 11 Reports as referenced on page 6 of the recently released ODNI report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, located here: <https://documents2.theblackvault.com/documents/ufos/2021-Government-UAP-UFO-Report.pdf>

It states:

*When aviators encounter safety hazards, they are required to report these concerns. Depending on the location, volume, and behavior of hazards during incursions on ranges, pilots may cease their tests and/or training and land their aircraft, which has a deterrent effect on reporting.*

- *The UAPTF has 11 reports of documented instances in which pilots reported near misses with a UAP.*

I ask that you process the 11 reports aforementioned, and released all portions thereof. I also ask that you include all photos and/or videos that may also correspond with those 11 reports.

If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. Please release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response!

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

**John Greenewald, Jr.**  
**CEO - The Black Vault, Inc.**  
<https://www.theblackvault.com>

(b)(3), (b)(6)

**From:** william teesdale (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 1:45 PM  
**To:** DNI-FOIA  
**Subject:** MDR Request - UAP Report Classified Annex

Dear DNI Records Custodian,

I am writing to request Mandatory DeClassification Review, of certain classified information, that was classified pursuant to Executive Order 13526 or other predecessor Executive Orders. I make this request pursuant to 32 CFR Part 1704. I am a United States citizen and make this request on that basis.

### **Records Requested**

All Classified documents, photographs, film or video footage, or other classified data, including Congressional briefing materials that accompanied the ODNI Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena dated 25 June, 2021.

### **Fees and Fee Waiver - 32 CFR 1704.8 (b)(1) and (2)**

I am willing to pay fees in relation to this request, pursuant to 32 CFR 1704.8 up to and including \$250. If there are fees in excess of this amount I would request a quotation or estimate of the likely cost in advance.

I also request ODNI exercises its discretion to waive fees relating to this request based upon both grounds (1) and (2) but particularly in relation to ground (2). The issue of the existence of potential threats to the National Security of the United States is of paramount importance to the American people. I make this request on my own behalf but would intend that any information de-classified, or parts of documents (and data) that can be de-classified be made freely available to the American public.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

William J. Teesdale

(b)(6)